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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/994,233	NIX, MICHAEL A.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Long Nguyen	2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 5/24/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 10-12 and 15-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|---|

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kim Kanzaki on 7/9/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

In The Claims

Claim 1, line 9, "includes," has been changed to --includes--.

Claim 1, line 19, "includes," has been changed to --includes--.

Reasons For The Above Changes

The above changes are made to correct the minor informalities in the claim.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. Claims 1-5, 10-12 and 15-20 are allowed.

Claim 1 is allowed because it is not obvious to combine the references as applicant's argument is persuasive. Thus, claim is allowed because the prior art of record fails to disclose the flip-flop circuit including, in combination with other limitations, the transistor connected to the first and second output terminals, the output stage includes a cross-couple transistor continuously receive power, and the input stage includes another transistor continuously connected to VSS (ground).

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Claims 2-5 are allowed because they depend on claim 1.

Claim 10, as amended, is allowed because it is not obvious to combine the references as applicant's argument is persuasive. Thus, claim 10 is allowed because the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the flip-flop including, in combination with other limitations, the another transistor connected to the first and second output terminals and a cross-coupled transistor directly connected to a positive power supply voltage.

Claims 11, 12, 15 and 16 are allowed because they depend on claim 10.

Claim 17 is allowed because it is not obvious to combine the references as applicant's argument is persuasive. Thus, claim 17 is allowed because the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a counter circuit which includes a first and second flip-flops in which the first flip-flop including a cross coupled transistor directly connected to a positive power supply voltage and a first transistor, and the second flip-flop including a second transistor connected to the third input terminal and a current handling terminal directly connected to Vss (ground) and a third transistor with the recited connections set forth therein.

Claims 18-20 are allowed because they depend on claim 17.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Long Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1753. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached at (571) 272-1740. The fax number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

July 9, 2004

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Long Nguyen', is written over a diagonal line that extends from the signature area towards the top right of the page.

Long Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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